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Illustrated
Topographical Record
of London.

FIRST SERIES.

Issued by the Organizing Committee of the London Topographical Society.

1898.

ILLUSTRATED
TOPOGRAPHICAL RECORD
OF LONDON.

ILLUSTRATED 104993
TOPOGRAPHICAL RECORD
OF LONDON.

FIRST SERIES.

Changes and Demolitions, 1880-1887.

Topographical Society of London :
WARWICK HOUSE, WARWICK COURT, GRAY'S INN, W.C.

HERTFORD :
PRINTED BY STEPHEN AUSTIN AND SONS.

PREFACE.

THE illustrations in the accompanying pages represent an attempt made to record the more notable changes in the outward features of London during a period of about seven years. They are reproductions of drawings made for the Society by Mr. J. P. Emslie, and, in accordance with directions given by Mr. Wheatley, they aim at accuracy and fulness of record rather than picturesque effect. But while the artist has loyally observed the object in view, it will be seen that these illustrations are not without beauty, and this result, therefore, is itself a testimony to the artistic aspects of our great capital, subordinated as these are to its character as a city of commerce. The beauty is in the background, as it were, but it should no longer be overlooked, since it has been revealed in the pages of Sir Walter Besant and in the pictures of living artists like Mr. Philip Norman, Mr. T. R. Way, and others.

In a manner, then, that was somewhat unexpected at the time, these drawings proved to be artistically pleasing as well as topographically faithful. They will be the more appreciated, it may be hoped, even by the severe antiquary. There still remains a number of drawings in hand about equal to the number of illustrations here published: these will be engraved and issued as a "Second Series" by the new Society hereafter.

With regard to the brief comments which accompany the pictures, we are under obligation to Mr. Emslie, who recently gave several evenings of his time to me when I was putting this matter into shape, and from his recollections and his knowledge afforded most of the particulars which have furnished these notes. If the commentary appear to fall short of the occasion, let it be said that the facts are in the pictures, and that it was hardly necessary to do more than point these out.

T. FAIRMAN ORDISH,
HON. SEC.

November, 1897.

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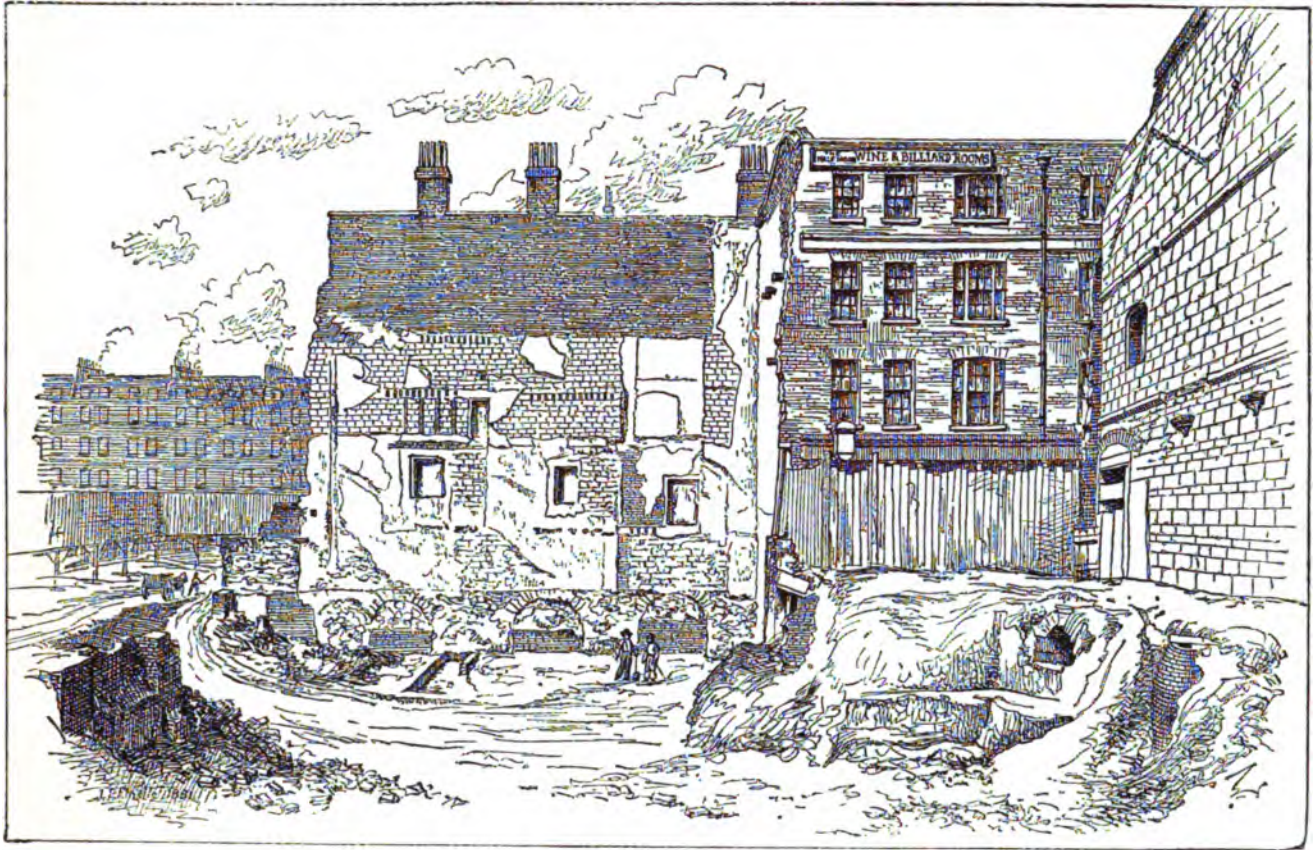
- I.—REMAINS OF LEADENHALL.
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- XXIII AND XXIV.—NO. 106, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH.

I.

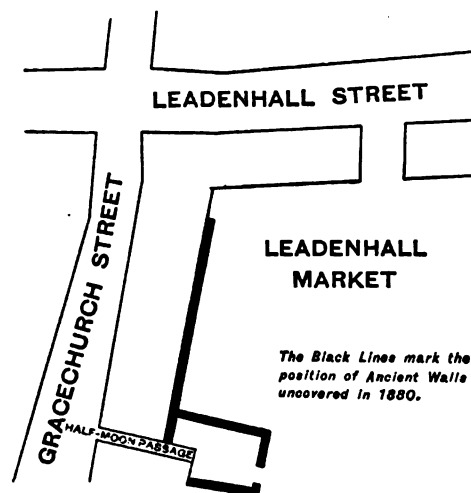
REMAINS OF LEADENHALL.

IN 1880 the demolition of some houses in Gracechurch Street brought into view the walls (of mediaeval construction) of the old Leadenhall. Subsequent excavations revealed the Roman substructure over which the Leadenhall was erected.

The view shows some arches of Roman work, beneath the mediaeval ashlar masonry.



I.—REMAINS OF LEADENHALL.

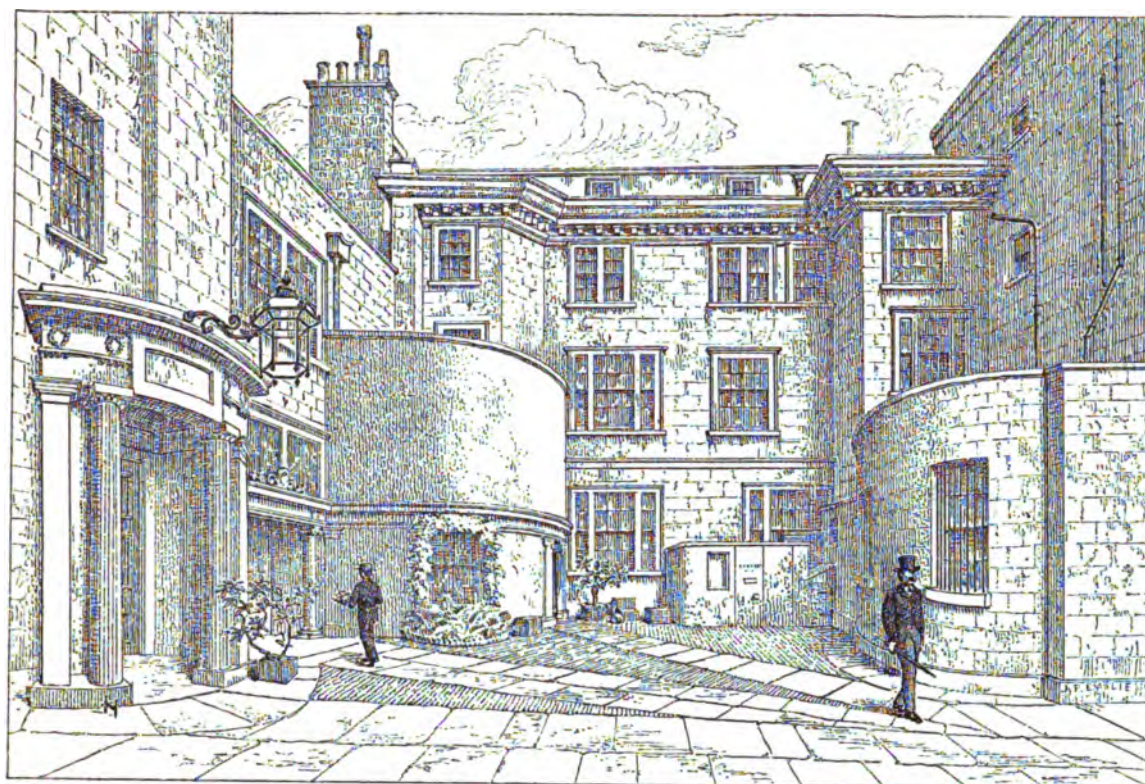


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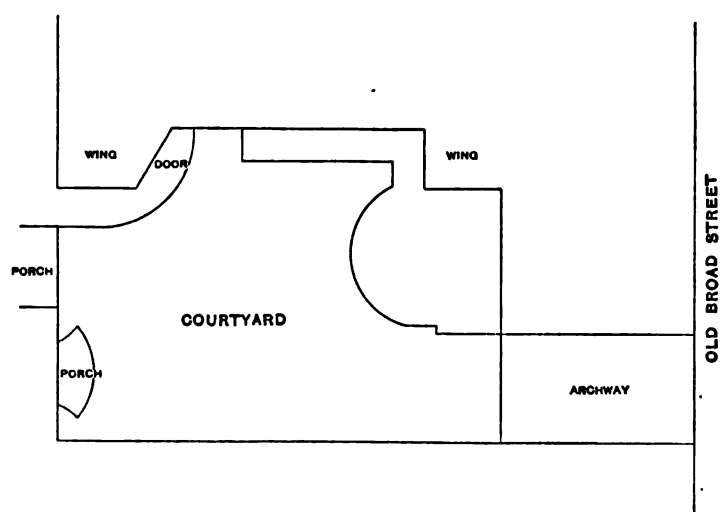
II.

WINCHESTER HOUSE.

II.—A view, with plan, of the Courtyard of Winchester House, Old Broad Street. This house recalled in its name the more famous Winchester House, Austin Friars, described by Stow as Paulet House, the residence of William Paulet, first Marquis of Winchester, Lord High Treasurer of England, *temp.* Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth.



II.—WINCHESTER HOUSE.

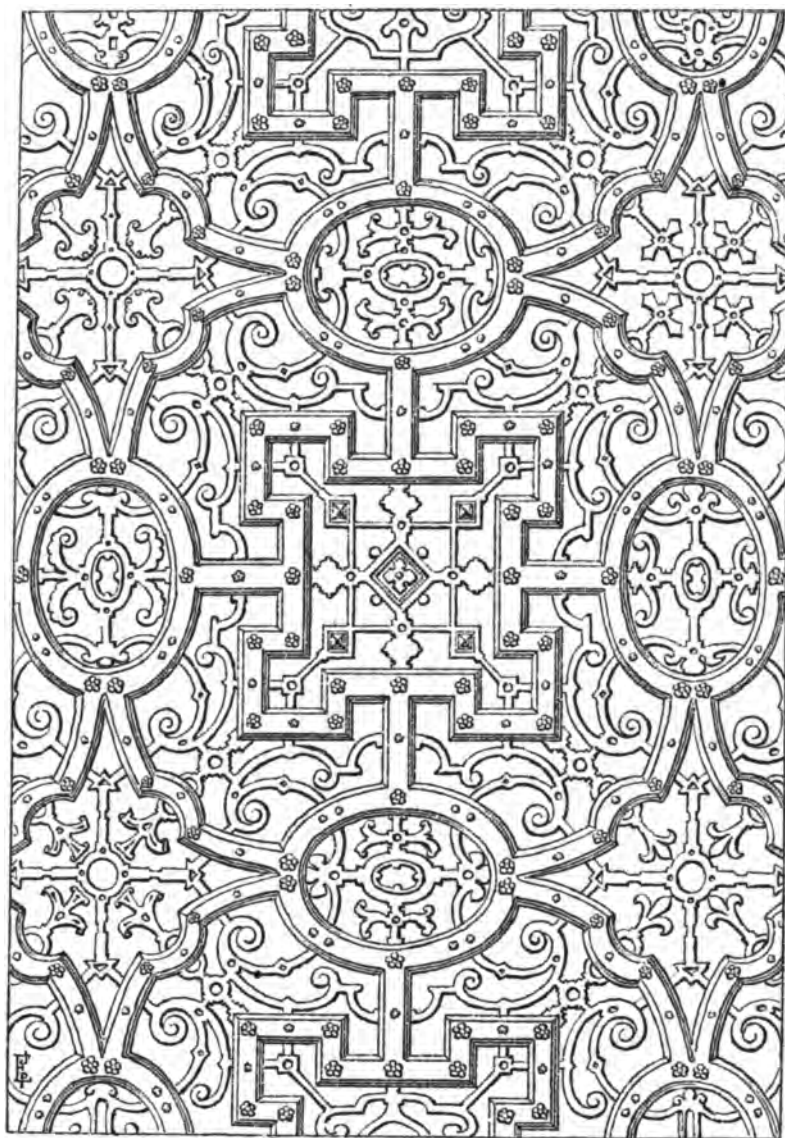


III.

WINCHESTER HOUSE.

III.—A ceiling with richly ornamented strap-work design, in a front room on the first floor.

These illustrations were made for the Society shortly before the demolition of the house in 1884.

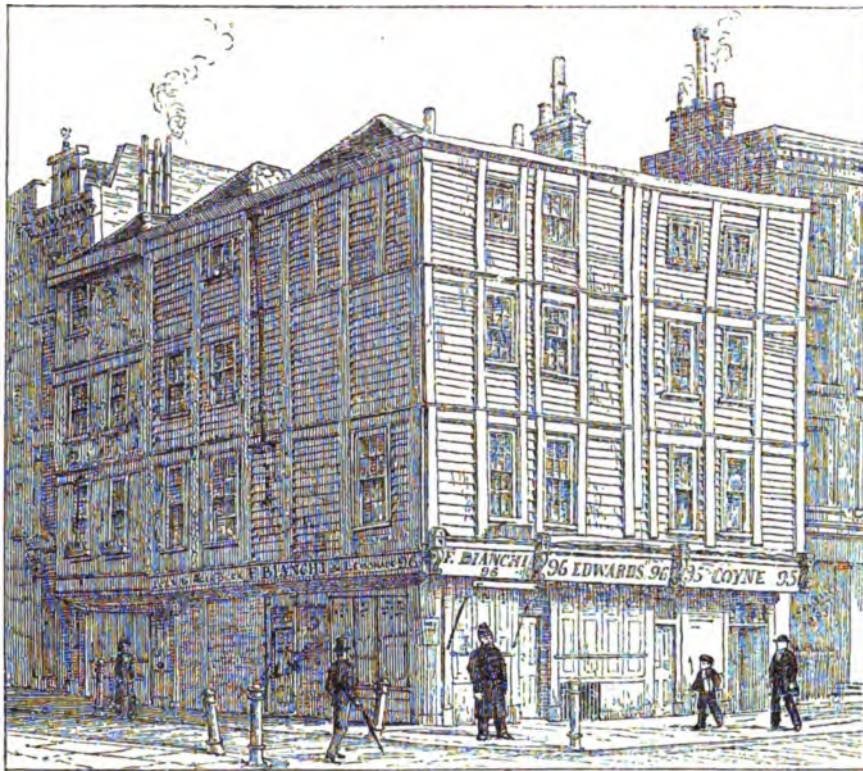


III.—WINCHESTER HOUSE.

IV.

CORNER OF MILTON STREET AND FORE STREET, CRIPPLEGATE.

THESE houses (pulled down in 1883) were examples of timber houses with feather-edge board fronts: the windows were modern, and the roofs, though old, were apparently of later date than the houses. The street on the left is Grub Street (now Milton Street), and it is possible that these timber tenements once sheltered the hired pamphleteers of the seventeenth century, and the scribblers satirized by Pope and Swift. The re-naming of the street was probably suggested by the fact that John Milton lies buried in the neighbouring church of St. Giles, and perhaps was not unassociated with a desire to obliterate the memories of Grub Street. But here we have a relic of the scribblers' quarter, which, as a term of reproach, will doubtless live as long as Pope's "Dunciad."

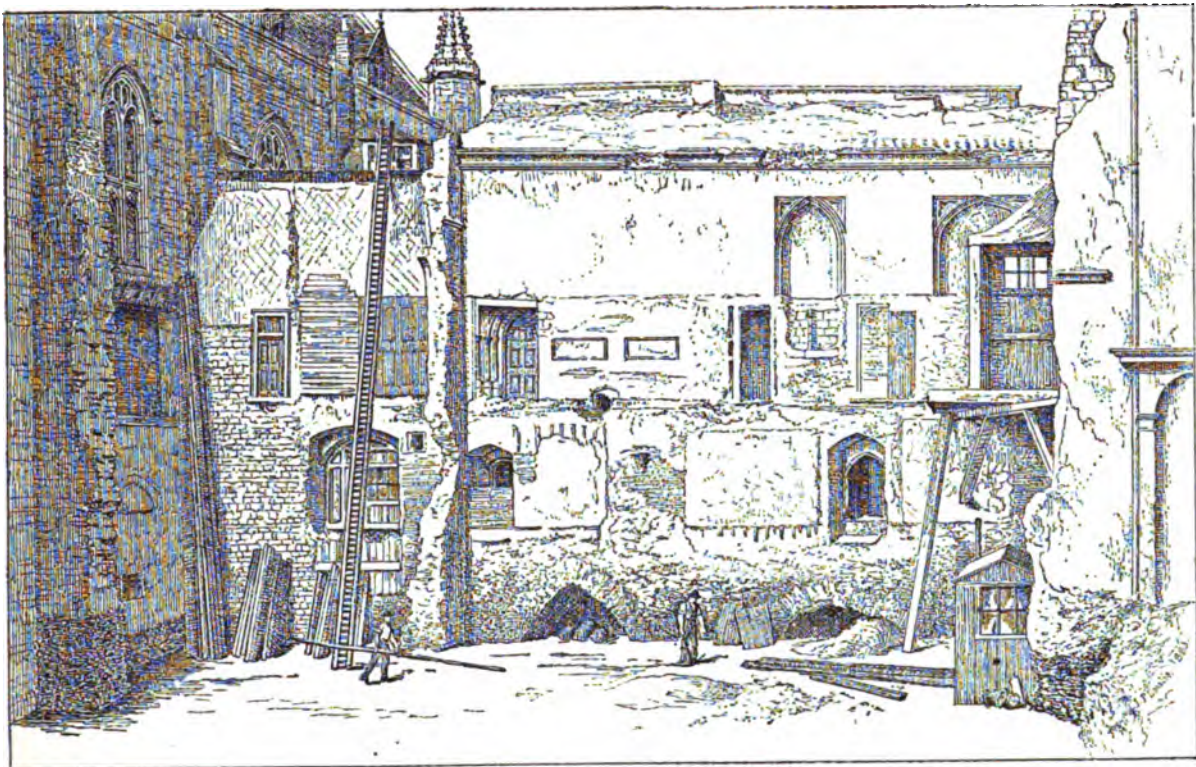


IV.—CORNER OF MILTON STREET AND FORE STREET, CRIPPLEGATE.

V.

REMAINS OF OLD GUILDHALL.

ON the left is the outer side of the wall of the existing Great Hall. The open space is the site of the present Council Chamber. The excavations, made in 1883, for the foundations of this Chamber brought into view the underground portions of the old building. The masonry was rugged and the arches roughly worked; but above were the ashlar walls and remains of Gothic doorways, partly hidden by the modern work which had been built over them.



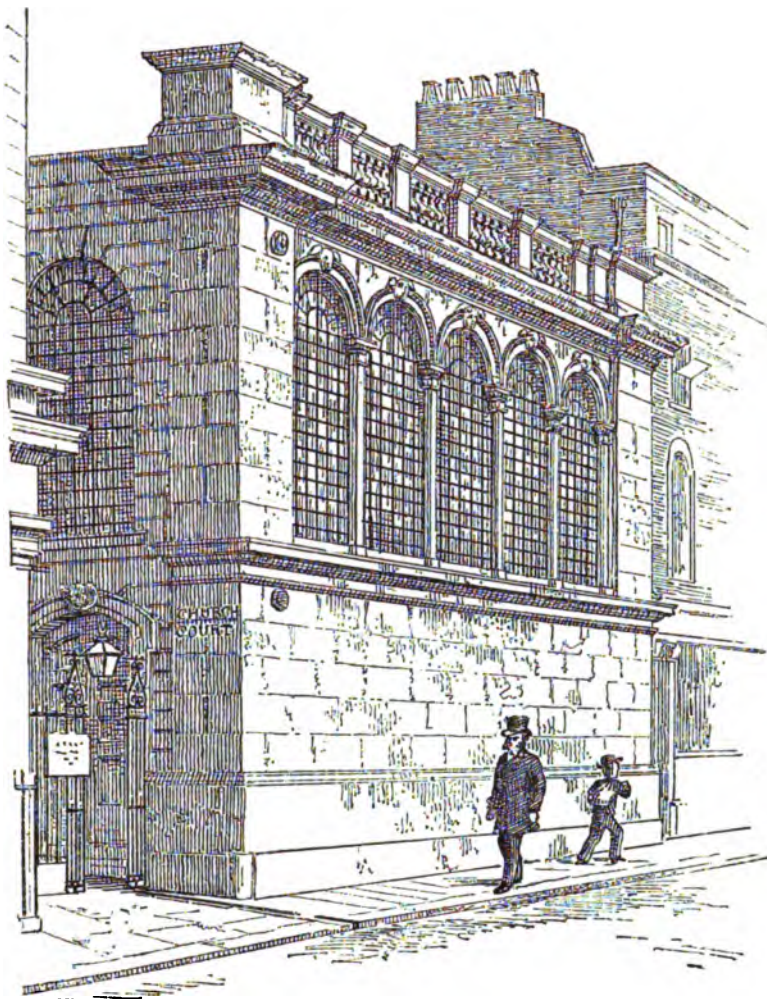
V.—REMAINS OF OLD GUILDHALL.

VI AND VII.

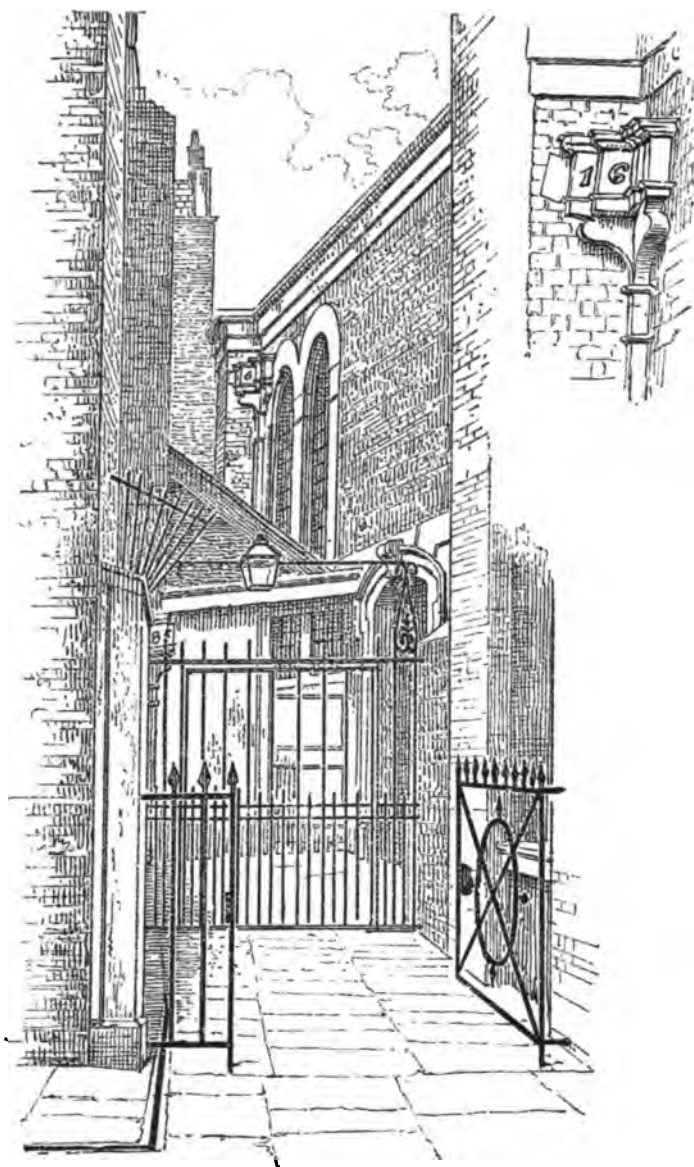
CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, FRIDAY STREET.

VI.—East end of the church, which was one of Wren's, demolished in 1885; the site is now occupied by warehouses. An inscription on one of these new buildings records the existence of the church, a memorial of which also survives in Church Court, formerly protected by a gateway as shewn. It stood on the site of a church which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. A feature of curiosity in connection with this church in recent times was its being so closely surrounded and hemmed in by adjoining buildings that the whole of the west side, and great part of the north, were completely hidden from view.

VII.—North side of the church, which was approached from Cheapside through a narrow court. In the upper right-hand corner is an enlarged representation of the seventeenth-century waterspout, which is seen in an angle of the church near the window.



VI.—CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, FRIDAY STREET.



VII.—CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, FRIDAY STREET.

VIII AND IX.

HOUSES IN CHANCERY LANE AND OLD SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN.

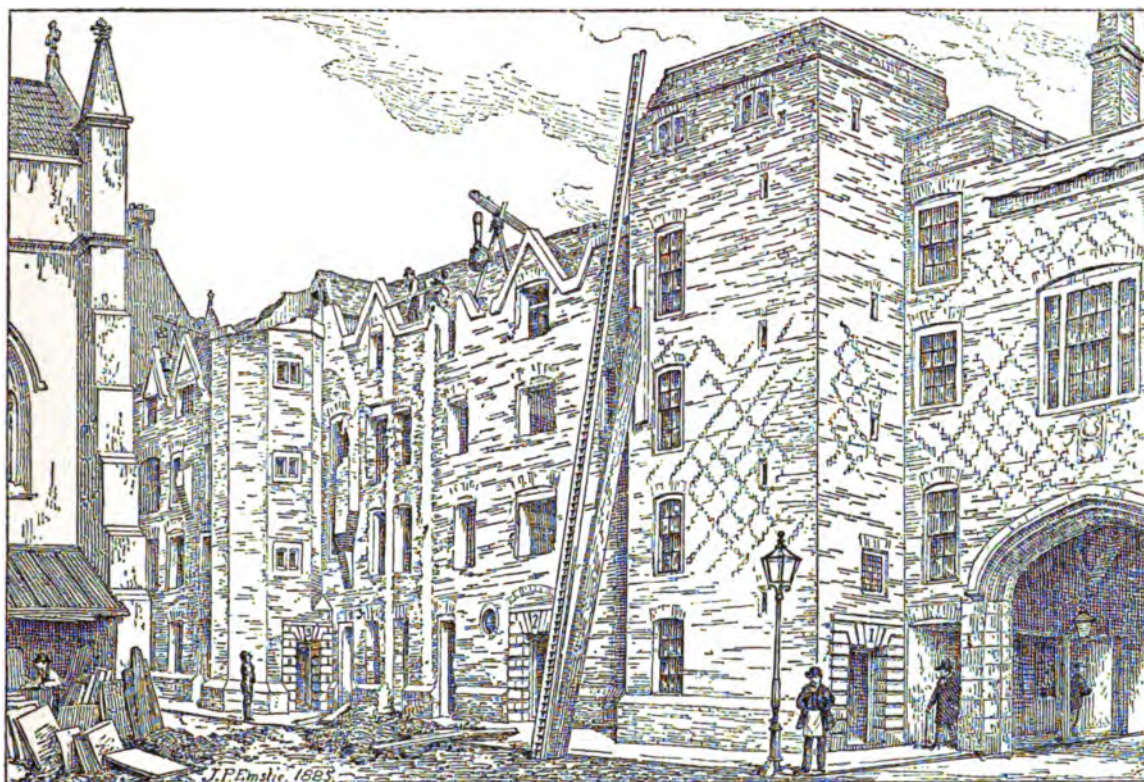
THESE houses, which were pulled down in 1885, stood to the north of Lincoln's Inn Gateway: the frontage in Chancery Lane is shown in VIII; the frontage in Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, appears in IX. The Gateway is on the left in the former view, and on the right in the latter. The houses were Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Old Square, and the numbers are seen over the doorways in IX. Of these houses, No. 3 was historically the most notable. Here was localized the tradition, recorded by Fuller and Aubrey, that Ben Jonson worked as a brick-layer with a trowel in one hand and a classical author in the other. In the interior of this house, at the back of the wall which is seen above the hoarding in VIII, on the first floor, was found a series of fresco paintings. The removal of a comparatively modern wainscot brought to light the old timber construction, and the frescoes appeared in the twelve centre plaster panels formed by the wooden framework. The paintings bore evidence of having been executed in the time of Elizabeth, and this was of interest in connection with the Ben Jonson tradition. They consisted of arabesque ornaments, painted with a bold black outline, enlivened with coarse touches of red, yellow, and blue, a figure of a gardener, a woman carrying a basket of fruit, a cupid, a couple of dolphins, and many fruits, flowers, ribands, etc.

A copy of these frescoes made by Mr. J. P. Emslie in water-colour is now in the Gardner Collection.

Among modern occupants of chambers in this house may be mentioned Judge Hughes, the author of "Tom Brown's Schooldays."



VIII.—HOUSES IN CHANCERY LANE AND OLD SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN.

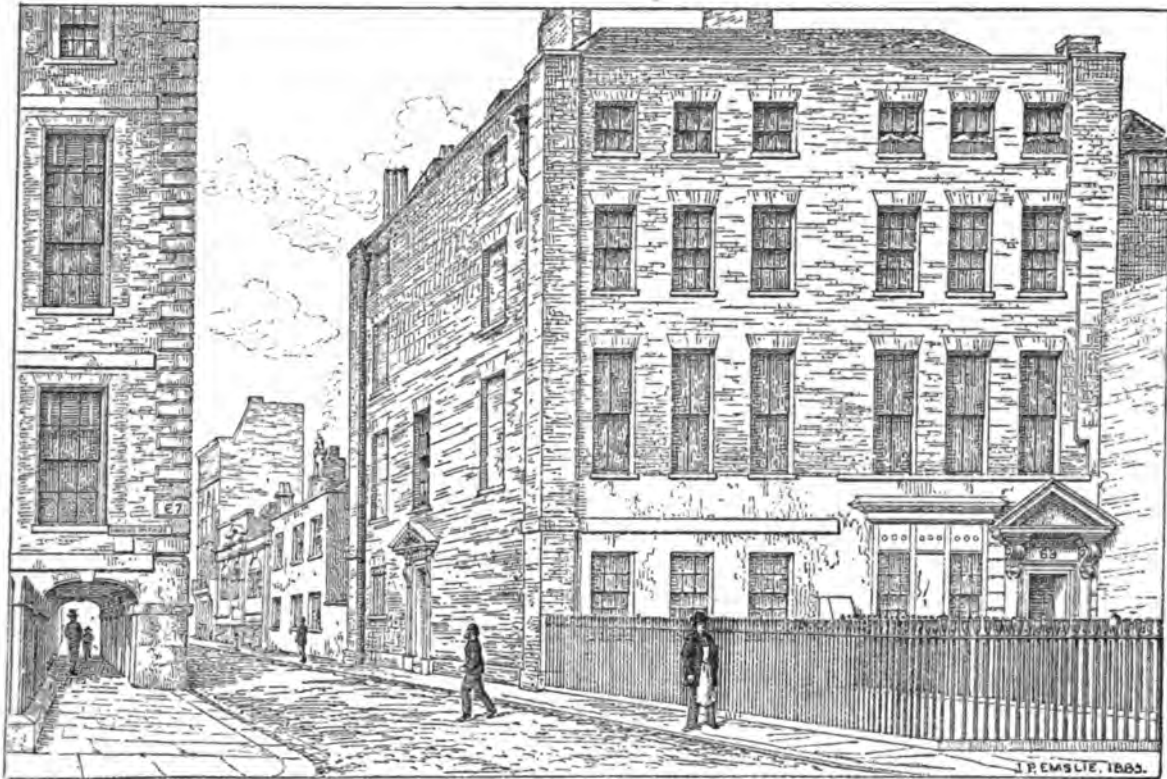


IX.—HOUSES IN CHANCERY LANE AND OLD SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN.

X.

N.W. CORNER OF LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

THE house at the corner of Great Queen Street was pulled down in 1885, or soon after, and rebuilt. The windows of these old brick houses had been modernized, but the old doorways, with massive brackets and pediments, were unaltered. At the opposite corner of Great Queen Street, on the left of the view, is a portion of the house formerly known as Newcastle House : the piazza with its massive piers here shown originally stood within the courtyard of the mansion ; at the present time it spans the pavement of Great Queen Street.



X.—N.W. CORNER OF LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

XI.

GILBERT PASSAGE, CLARE MARKET.

THESE houses have all been demolished. On the right is seen the corner of an old inn, the "George the Fourth," which was built entirely over the pavement of Portsmouth Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, being supported on timber posts whose bases were set in the kerb. The houses in the centre of the view were of timber plastered over: the construction of the one which is partially demolished is plainly shown, and beside it is a covered butcher's shop, of an ancient type. Beyond this an archway, as shown, led into Clare Market, the backs of the houses visible in the distance being there situated.



XI.—HOUSES IN GILBERT PASSAGE, CLARE MARKET.

XII.

HOUSES IN ESSEX COURT, TEMPLE.

THESE houses were massively constructed of red brick, and probably unaltered in appearance since the time of their erection. The house in the centre of the view was No. 5, demolished in 1882. Noticeable features of its exterior were the window-frames of old form and pattern, and the old doorway with its segment-head. An old sundial was on its south front. Porson lived in this house before he obtained his professorship. On the left of the view is one of the few shops of old London which have survived till within our own time, and is still in existence.



XII.—HOUSES IN ESSEX COURT, TEMPLE.

XIII.

HOUSES IN GRAY'S INN LANE.

THE whole thoroughfare from Holborn to King's Cross (the *south* part of which had been called Gray's Inn Lane, and the *north* part Gray's Inn Road) was re-numbered and was named Gray's Inn Road throughout in 1863. The houses represented in this view were Nos. 36, 38, and 40 in the re-numbered Gray's Inn Road, and were some of the few remaining examples of the old houses of Gray's Inn Lane. They abutted on the squalid courts which Strype, in his edition of Stow's Survey, 1720, describes as being at that time respectably tenanted. At the back of these houses formerly stood the "Thieves' Kitchen," on the site of which the present church of St. Alban, Holborn, was erected.

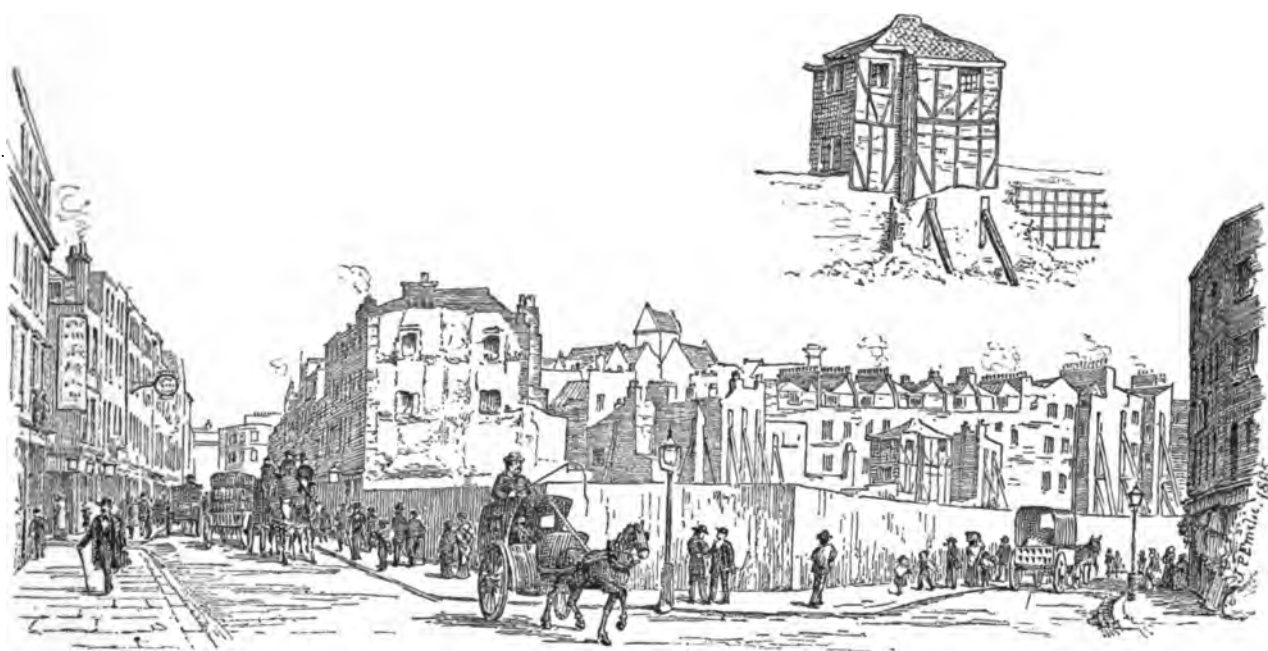


XIII.—HOUSES IN GRAY'S INN LANE.

XIV.

CORNER OF GREAT ST. ANDREW STREET AND MONMOUTH STREET.

ON the left is Great St. Andrew Street, one of the seven thoroughfares whose junction formed the quasi-circus formerly known as Seven Dials. Some of the houses of Seven Dials are seen in the extreme distance at the end of the street. On the right is the entrance to Monmouth Street, the east side of which is shown by the hoarding which stands on the line of the front of the houses which were pulled down to make room for the new and wider thoroughfare called Shaftesbury Avenue. It has been generally understood that Monmouth Street derived its name from James, Duke of Monmouth, the natural son of Charles II, but more probably it was named after Carey, Earl of Monmouth, who died in 1661. In the later Stuart era the street was inhabited by people of rank and fashion, but it soon fell from its high estate, and in the literature of the eighteenth century there are numerous allusions to it as the quarter notorious for the sale of old clothes and cast-off finery. In the earlier years of the present reign it was inhabited almost entirely by vendors of old boots and shoes, and in this aspect was celebrated by Charles Dickens in "Sketches by Boz" and by Thomas Carlyle in "Sartor Resartus." The west side of the street is now a portion of Shaftesbury Avenue. The French Hospital, which was formerly in Serle Street, Leicester Square, now stands on the space at the back of the hoarding which is seen on one side of Monmouth Street. Beyond the hoarding are the backs of houses in Queen Street. A curious timber structure standing slightly in the rear of one of these houses is shown on an enlarged scale above the view.



XIV.—CORNER OF GREAT ST. ANDREW STREET AND MONMOUTH STREET.

D

XV.

REGENT CIRCUS.

THE alterations made on the site of the old Regent Circus (now called Piccadilly Circus) at the date of this illustration entirely changed the character of the locality as a *circus*. The buildings shown are modern, of which the oldest are those on the extreme right and left of the view. These older buildings formed part of the original circus, the continuation of which is represented by the hoarding in the centre of the view, marking the position of houses which had been pulled down to effect the alteration. These houses were exactly similar in design to the surviving houses in the right and left corners, all of them having been built after the designs of John Nash in 1820. The building of which a portion appears above the right corner house is the Criterion Theatre. The tallest building in the group of houses to the left of the centre of the view is the Café Monico. The large building with a centre pediment is the Pavilion Music Hall, to the right of which is Coventry Street. In the centre, above the hoarding, is Shaftesbury Avenue, with the tower of the church of St. Anne, Soho, visible in the distance.



XV.—REGENT CIRCUS.

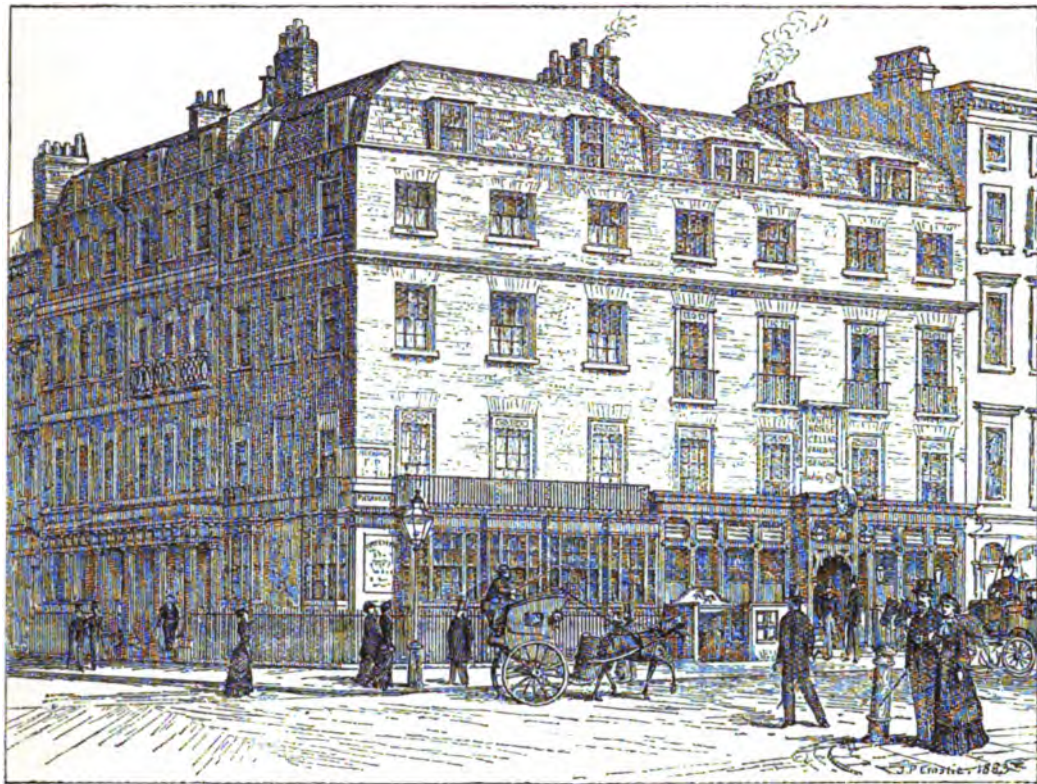
XVI.

WHITE HORSE CELLAR, PICCADILLY.

THIS famous old inn at the corner of Dover Street was the starting-place of coaches to the West of England. When visited for the purpose of this illustration, the question was put to the manager: "Why pull it down? it appears to be in good preservation." To which he replied: "Yes; but it is such a rambling place that we can, in a more compact structure, get double the number of rooms upon the same area." This is the consideration which has led to the destruction of the inns with galleried yards; whereas, on the other hand, the view is feasibly held that, if the interest of such places had been properly exploited, the intelligent capitalist would have found a good investment in preserving rather than in pulling down these relics of old England. Strype tells us that there was a White Horse Cellar in Piccadilly in 1720, and that it was so named by Williams, the landlord, in honour of the House of Hanover. The coaching celebrity of the old house is in a measure retained by the new one, since it is a fashionable starting-place for private four-horse stage-coaches in the Spring and Summer months.

The entrance to the "cellar" is shown in the view. Adjoining the bar was a small room called "The Cabin," which recalled the stage-coach associations of the inn. It was of small dimensions, with a low ceiling, in which was an oval skylight, giving it somewhat the appearance of a ship's cabin. Although the "cabin" had much of the aspect of the parlour of a small inn, and was incongruous with the style of the rest of the house, visitors frequently preferred it as a resort to the more formal and commodious rooms at their disposal.

Mr. Philip Norman has kindly supplied the following additional note:— Above the bar of the New White Horse Cellars, rebuilt 1886, was placed a fine old painted signboard—a white horse with flowing mane and tail. Above were the words "The New White Horse Cellars"; below, "Abraham Hatchett." Before 1893 further alterations had taken place and the sign had disappeared. This was no doubt the original signboard; the White Horse Cellars were an adjunct of Hatchett's.

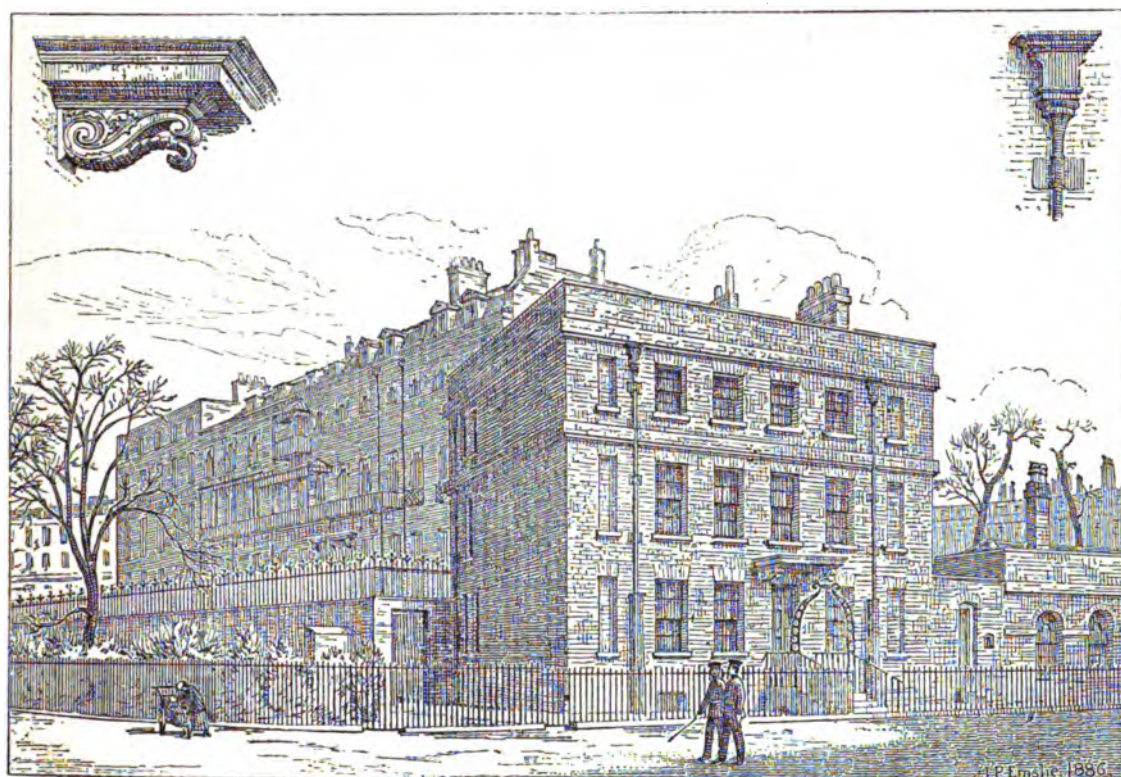


XVI.—WHITE HORSE CELLAR, PICCADILLY.

XVII.

THE GUN HOUSE, ST. JAMES'S PARK.

A PLAIN square brick house on the north side of the Parade Ground, and known as the Gun House because near it stood the bronze gun captured from Marshal Soult soon after the battle of Salamanca, and presented to the Prince Regent by the Spanish Government. The gun is still an ornament of the Parade Ground, and stands in a position close to the Horse Guards. The only outward ornament which the Gun House possessed was in the brackets of the door-hood, one of which, with the cornice of the hood, is shown in the upper left-hand corner of the illustration; the head of one of the gutter-pipes is shown in the corner opposite. In the extreme distance on the right is the back of the Admiralty; on the left is Spring Gardens Terrace, Spring Gardens, the whole of which block of houses was pulled down, together with the terrace in front of it, as well as the Gun House, and the new Admiralty buildings were erected on the site.

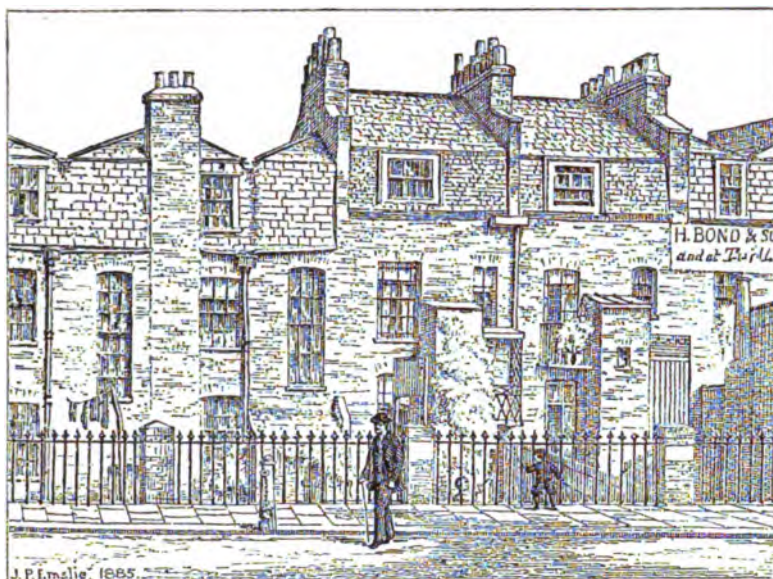


XVII.—THE GUN HOUSE, ST. JAMES'S PARK.

XVIII.

SOME NOOKS OF OLD WESTMINSTER.

THESE places, near Victoria Station, have no particular architectural interest ; but the small size of the houses, the size of the gardens attached to them, and the little wooden palings which in many cases fence those gardens, combine to give an almost rural aspect to these scenes, in great contrast to the dense neighbourhood which so closely hems them in. These picturesque courts, with their quaint, old-fashioned dwellings, are suggestive of the time when land was cheaper, and rents were lower, and the green fields much closer to the heart of the town than they are now. The houses in Tachbrook Street show the former level of the ground, the present roadway being about one story higher than the level of their basement. There are some houses in the adjoining Green Coat Row (with gardens in front) which also show this alteration in the level of the road ; these have no distinctive feature, and, being of the same general character as those shown, no illustration of them is given.



Tachbrook Street: backs of houses in Vauxhall Bridge Road.



Hindon Place.

XVIII.—SOME NOOKS OF OLD WESTMINSTER.



Ship Court, Bell Street.



Garden Place, Bell Street.

XVIII.—SOME NOOKS OF OLD WESTMINSTER.



XVIII.—SOME NOOKS OF OLD WESTMINSTER.

XIX.

GROUNDS OF EARL'S COURT HOUSE.

EARL'S COURT HOUSE, no longer in existence, was the residence of the famous surgeon, Dr. John Hunter, from 1764 until his death in 1793. The old garden walls, of a deep rich red, remained until the sale of the house in February, 1886. The upper view shows the piers of the garden gateway, the gates having been removed and the space between the piers walled up. The lower view represents a mound which stood in the grounds, built up over a brick structure, in which Hunter kept a lion and other wild beasts. The top of the barrel-shaped centre of this structure is seen above the crest of the mound.



XIX.—GROUNDS OF EARL'S COURT HOUSE.

XX AND XXI.

OLD HAMPSTEAD.

THESE are views of places which have been demolished for the new thoroughfare of Fitzjohn's Avenue. XX represents the old houses on the west side of High Street. The building on the extreme right is the new Fire Brigade station at the corner of Heath Street, opposite to which is now the northern end of Fitzjohn's Avenue. Some of the houses near the middle of the view were removed for making this thoroughfare; all the other houses have since been rebuilt.

XXI shows Yorkshire Grey Yard, at the back of High Street. The whole of this was demolished to make way for Fitzjohn's Avenue. The "Yorkshire Grey," in the centre of the view, retained much of the appearance of a village inn, and the small two-storied cottages on the sides of the yard, with its irregular cobble-stone pavement, combined to give this out-of-the-way spot a rural air long after the town had closed in around it.



XX.—OLD HAMPSTEAD.



XXI.—OLD HAMPSTEAD.

XXII.

HOUSES IN LONG LANE, BERMONDSEY.

WOODEN houses with feather-edge board fronts, heavy timber cornices, massive chimney-stacks, and gable roofs which had probably been renewed, as they were covered with pantiles. The last house in the row, which projects beyond the others, stands at the end of an equally long row of houses of the same kind, extending up a court at right angles to Long Lane. By the side of this house was a shop of ancient pattern, but evidently of later construction than the houses, built upon a part of the slip of ground which had been a row of gardens when Bermondsey was a suburb. This quaint bit of old Bermondsey was demolished shortly after the date of our illustration.



XXII.—HOUSES IN LONG LANE, BERMONDSEY.

XXIII AND XXIV.

NO. 106, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH.

THE comparatively small size, straight skyline, and flat front, together with the preponderating influence of the very modern shop-front, give an impression at the first view that this old house is of very ordinary character. It possesses, however, a bold cornice supported by square brackets above the second floor. The segment-headed windows retain their original form, and each of them has a keystone carved with a grotesque head (no two of them alike), and it will be seen that these are of very fanciful design. They are similar in character to those which abound on the old houses in Queen Square, Westminster; and their isolated presence here, in such a neighbourhood, was deemed sufficiently curious and interesting to give them separate illustration.



XXIII.—No. 106, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH.



XXIV.—No. 106, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH.



XXIII.—No. 106, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH.



XXIV.—No. 106, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH.

